

BITTER FIGHT FOR LENS GOES ON THROUGH NIGHT

Canadians Battle Fiercely to Gain
Green Crassier—Teutons Suffer
Extremely Heavy Losses.

In a brilliant attack this morning the Verdun front the French carried 304, one of the most bitterly disputed situations of the war, in the struggle which thousands of men have lost their lives. Berlin admits the loss. The French advanced to an average depth of 20 miles over the sector between Avoncourt and Dead Man hill, Paris announced officially, and in addition to Hill 304 stormed the fortified works between Hill 304 and Bethincourt.

The new French assault, made less than a week ago, after the beginning of the German offensive, was the first since the May 10, a somewhat shorter front than May's opening attack, which was on a 10-day's of the river.

Now Hold Former Positions.

At the first shock the French, although highly successful, did not obtain all the objectives and today's attack doubtless was intended to complete the attainment of the ends immediately before the French. The great majority of all the important points on the Verdun front which they held before the beginning of the German attack last year.

On the British front the bitter struggle for possession of Lens has been going on since the night. The official British statement announces that the British have taken the Green Crater, to the south of Lens, and that especially heavy losses have been inflicted on the German forces.

Portuguese troops which are holding a sector in northern France repulsed the German attack and succeeded in seeing heavy artillery fighting continuing around Ypres, where the British have

French Story of Fighting.

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, August 24.—The official French story today follows:

"In the Champagne our artillery continued to bombard German defensive works and German lines, penetrating between Souain and St. Hilaire and capturing that apparatus for the attack of the German positions. At 4:45 o'clock this morning our troops captured the German positions between the court wood and Dead Man hill. Our objectives were completely attained and most instances surpassed."

Capture Defense Works.

"By a single charge the French captured the formidable defense works and also Camard wood, to the west of the court wood."

of the Forges brook. Between H court and Bethincourt the avenue departs to the right and is about five kilometers. Prisoners were taken in the course of this action. The Germans advanced in a vigorous offensive east of the road between Esches and Bethincourt enabled us to enlarge our zone of activity to the hill to a depth of about a kilometer. In Lorraigne we repulsed easily an enemy attack on small posts near Mécourt.

Ordered to Die at Poets.

GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY, 1918. The testimony of many prisoners shows that the Germans intended to hold the left bank of the Moselle at all costs. The regimental headquarters were ordered to die at all posts, if necessary. Many of them did so while what remained in the line was ordered to retreat. Between two-thirds of the prisoners were taken there.

A visit to the reconquered territory was made everywhere on the positions of Le Mort Homme and Regaiville as defensive organizations had been rapidly everywhere covered small fortresses. It was the last hour of the German crown prince, who was captured, that he was ordered to conquer Verdun, in the neighborhood of which thousands of the French were buried. Without any laurels victory.

All attempts to recapture the positions lost proved vain, every German effort being thrown back in disorder. The remarkable thing about the attack was that the smaller the units sustained their losses, while those of the enemy have been terrible, as can be seen by the following account of a battle fought by the German 1st division at Lens. One German regiment alone no more, and the remaining alive are prisoners. The French, who were surprised by the poisonous gas shells near Herberberg, lost 1,000 men, and the German commandments of three entire German batteries, composing a group which had been sent to the front to fire the horrible projectiles over the French lines. A German infantryman captured said that his battalion was being gassed by the front line duty, had lost two-thirds of its total.

[illegible]